

What is claimed is:

1. A polarizing electrode for an electric double layer capacitor, comprising an activated carbon obtained by activating a hard-to-graphitize material with water vapor, wherein the activated carbon has a median particle size within a range from 4  $\mu\text{m}$  to 8  $\mu\text{m}$  in the particle size distribution as measured by a laser diffraction method and a benzene adsorption ratio is within a range from 47.0% to 60% by weight of activated carbon.
2. An electric double layer capacitor comprising an electrode unit comprising a current collector and polarizing electrode, a separator and an electrolytic solution, wherein the polarizing electrode is made of an activated carbon obtained by activating a hard-to-graphitize material with water vapor, while the activated carbon has a median particle size within a range from 4  $\mu\text{m}$  to 8  $\mu\text{m}$  in the particle size distribution as measured by a laser diffraction method and a benzene adsorption ratio is within a range from 47.0% to 60% by weight of activated carbon.
3. A polarizing electrode for electric double layer capacitor, comprising an activated carbon obtained by activating a hard-to-graphitize material with water vapor, wherein the

activated carbon has a content of calcined ash of not more than 0.2% by weight.

4. An electric double layer capacitor comprising an electrode unit comprising a current collector and polarizing electrode, a separator and an electrolytic solution, wherein the polarizing electrode is made of an activated carbon obtained by activating a hard-to-graphitize material with water vapor and the activated carbon has a content of calcined ash of not more than 0.2% by weight.